Talks on Tulbul Navigation Project

555. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India have sought fresh dates from Pakistan to discuss the issues relating to Tulbul Navigation Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government had proposed dates to Pakistan for discussions on the Tulbul Navigation Project. The dates were not found suitable by Pakistan which was to communicate fresh dates to us. These are still awaited.

U.K. Policy Towards India

556. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the hitherto Tory Government's policy towards India with regard to political and economic relationship with Jammu and Kashmir issue;

(b) whether Government anticipate any change in the policy of the U. K. Government towards India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Tory Government have shown considerable goodwill and friendship towards India, and have been cooperating satisfactorily with India. They have supported India's recent economic reforms and encouraged British industry to increase investment and collaborations in India. On the Kashmir issue, the UK Government stands for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan under the Shimla Agreement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary Level Talks

557. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS b pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary level talks are likel to be delayed further; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the talks are likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The sixth round of Foreign Secretary level talks are expected to be held soon. Prior to these talks, discussions are also scheduled on the Tulbul Navigation Project, demarcation of boundary in the Sir Greek area and chemical weapons. The dates for these meetings are being worked out through diplomatic channels.

Relations with South Africa and Taiwan

558. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are moving more rapidly to establish relations with South Africa and Taiwan; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Government of India are constantly monitoring the situation in South Africa. The establishment of official relations with that country will depend on how soon the process of the dismantlement of apartheid can be deemed to have become irreversible and the progress towards the establishment of an interim government in South Africa.